

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/502,174

Applicant(s)

SCHOUHAMER IMMINK,  
KORNELIS ANTONIE

Examiner

LAM T. MAI

Art Unit

2819

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11, line 7, beginning at line 7, DELETE "state establishing" and end of line 7, REPLACE "the" with "a".

Claim 12, line 1, REPLACE "The coding device" with "The device".

### **Response to Amendments**

Applicant's amendments filed on 12/17/2007 has been carefully considered.

### ***Specification***

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-18 are allowable.

Claim 1 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fail to fairly teach or suggest claimed method comprising, among other limitation, a novel and unobvious limitation of "selecting the corresponding code word based on an additional criterion from the subset of code words excluding all

code words not complying with said predetermined criterion and, in the event that a coding state of the second type has been established by the preceding code word, excluding all code words having a value of the predetermined parameter not corresponding to the established coding state of the second type" structurally and functionally interconnected with the limitation in the manner as cited in the claim and dependent claims 2-10.

Claim 11 is allow over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly teach or suggest claimed device comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitation of " m-to-n-bit converter comprises means for providing for each information word an associated subset of code words comprising at least r second type of code words mutually differing in a predetermined way, and means for selecting a code word based on an additional criterion from the subset of code words excluding all code words not complying with said predetermined criterion and, in the event that a coding state of the second type has been established by the preceding code word, excluding all code words having a value of the predetermined parameter not corresponding to the established coding state of the second type" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in the claim and dependent claim 12..

Claim 13 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly teach or suggest claimed apparatus comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitation of "the preceding signal portion belongs to the group of the second type, excluding all signal

portions having a value of the predetermined parameter not being associated with the respective information word, and the subset being associated to an information word and comprising at least  $r$  signal portions mutually differing in the value of the predetermined parameter" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited the claim and dependent claims 14-16.

Claim 17 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly teach or suggest claimed device comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitation of "means for distinguishing the respective information word by evaluating a predetermined parameter of the following code word, characterized in that the converter comprises means for converting a code word selected from a subset of code words, the subset being associated to the information word and comprising at least  $r$  code words mutually differing in the value of the predetermined parameter" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in the claim and dependent claim 18.

#### **Cited References**

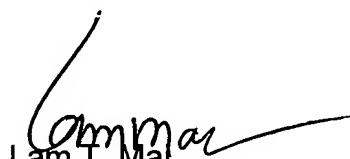
The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to application's disclosures. The cited references relate to instant application subject matter.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM T. MAI whose telephone number is (571)272-1807. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Barnie Rexford can be reached on (571) 272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Lam T. Mai  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2819